

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 6-18, 21 and 22 have been withdrawn.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that Claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the February 22, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the discussions held are incorporated into the following remarks and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-4, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S.P. 4,826,268 to Kramer in view of U.S.P. 6,411,325 to Matsushita et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Before considering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of independent Claims 1 and 19 would be helpful. Independent Claim 1 is directed to an optical scanner in an image forming apparatus including a scanning optical system that forms an optical scanning path. A pair of optical detecting units are arranged at two positions on the optical scanning path to detect a write-start position and a write-end position to measure a time for scanning from the write-start position to the write-end position. An optical housing houses at least the scanning optical system and the optical detecting units. The optical detecting units are mounted on the optical housing via an intermediate member having a thermal expansion coefficient smaller than that of the optical housing.

Claim 19 is directed to, *inter alia*, an image forming unit that includes an image carrier, forms a toner image by developing an electrostatic latent image written on the image carrier with a toner and transfers the toner image onto a recording medium. A fixing unit fixes the toner image transferred on the recording medium.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that Kramer discloses detectors 118a and 118b mounted on the common wall 37 of the housing via an intermediate member. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Kramer that an intermediate member is formed between the photoelectric detectors and the frame. In Figure 4, the depiction of the photoelectric detectors uses two contiguous rectangles of different sizes but does not provide evidence of an intermediate member.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that Matsushita discloses a mounting part having a low thermal expansion coefficient as compared to that of the optical housing. Instead, Matsushita discloses at column 8, line 62 through column 9, line 3 that the mounting parts 104 and 106 have a coefficient of thermal expansion that is low in comparison to lenses 30 and 40. There is no comparison between the coefficient of thermal expansion of the mounting parts to the optical housing.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

**22850**

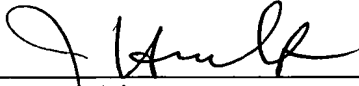
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